

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Thought for the Day

Selected by Rev. Merton W. Ross
"Is it worth while that we battle to humble some poor fellow down in the dust? God pity us all! Turn too soon will tumble all of us together like leaves in a gust, humbled, indeed, down to the dust." - Anonymous.

Do not put off till tomorrow being an early Christmas shopper today.

It would seem that Peace-maker Ford must have got his invitation list mixed.

General Villa would be an admirable comrade for General Aguinaldo in General Funston's haul of fame.

Still, the country has worried along tolerably well for more than 125 years without a cloture rule in the senate.

The Teuton sweep measures up to the official claim. The trouble is the enemy persists in kicking back some of the dust.

Observe that the other railroads are thinking twice before attempting to follow the Missouri Pacific's lead in going back to the 3-cent passenger fare.

The utter unpreparedness of the country crops out in a new quarter. Cyclone Davis encounters no resistance in his drive from Texas to Washington.

It is nip and tuck between copper and wool in the price-climbing contest in the mountain states. Producers of both staples are wondering what they will do with the money.

Several members of the Austrian cabinet retired from office "in the interest of harmony." As a promoter of harmony Mar's steam roller has all competitors backed off the pike.

South Omaha claims that abolishing the toll on 'phone calls from Omaha will raise the rate to South Omaha subscribers. But why should it? The local rental rate is no part of the toll question.

All members of the cabinet are said to have forthwith enthusiastically approved the president's message immediately upon hearing it read to them without even the suggestion of a change. But, then, Mr. Bryan is no longer a member of the cabinet.

Any one with half an eye can see what would have happened to the wonderful improvements which the senator proudly boasts having incorporated into the reserve bank law had he not had the club in reserve to filibuster the administration's pet measure to death.

The good ship Oscar II wore distinction years ago. Dr. Frederick A. Cook stood on its bow bearing the laurels and wreaths of Copenhagen to the home folks in New York and Brooklyn. Bearing the Christmas peace party merely supplements its unique fame.

A severe storm swept over the city this morning with rain, snow and a gale completely stalling business. All sorts of mishaps are reported. Ed Rimeral was struck on the back with a sign while walking up Farnam street, and Lehman, the Farnam street dry goods man, lost a chimney which cracked through his roof. The new residence of E. A. McClure on Virginia avenue, scarcely completed, was torn to pieces.

Boggs & Hill have donated a lot in their addition for the site of a new Methodist church.

A social entertainment was given at the Kountze Memorial church, with a lecture by Rev. J. S. Detweiler, on how to make a speech, and musical numbers by Mr. G. F. Mayer, Mrs. J. T. Clark, Miss Minnie Raif, Mr. R. W. Bryson, and Mr. D. K. Lester.

Unity club listened to an essay on "Richelieu and Bismarck" by Mrs. Field.

The Union Star club gave a ball at Metropolitan hall for invitation guests.

D. W. Saxe left for the east accompanied by J. Ware Foster, who, it is understood, will act as best man. Mr. and Mrs. Saxe will reach Omaha in about two weeks.

Patey Fallon, the general steward of "The Senate," is back from a two months' sojourn in the south.

The promotion is announced of George F. Mayer as auditor of the Mexican railway. He has been employed in the Union Pacific here, and is a musician of rare excellence, who will be missed in musical circles.

No Government Backing for Peace Expedition.

Secretary Lansing of the State department makes it very clear that the United States is not backing the Ford peace ship project in any way. The promoter and his companions will be on their own feet when they leave home, and their venture will stand entirely in the attitude of a private enterprise, in the furtherance of which the government has neither part nor interest. No other course could rightly have been taken by the government. It is well understood the United States or any other neutral power is willing to act for any of the belligerents in opening negotiations for peace, but the initiative must come from one of the powers now at war. Our good offices were long ago tendered to the European governments by the president, a fact which seems to have been overlooked by some of the earnest advocates of peace. It would be both improper and unfriendly for the government to interfere beyond the tender already made. The Ford party is likely to repeat the experience of the Bedford whaling captain, who returned from a long voyage sans oil or bone, but who reported with some satisfaction that he and the ship's company had enjoyed a fine sail.

An Unbiased Opinion on the Philippines.

While on the subject of the set-back in the Philippines since the democrats took hold of the administration of affairs over there, let us quote an unbiased opinion which diagnoses the trouble as due to politics of the same variety that forced out of our diplomatic corps all the trained ambassadors and ministers, and substituted untried men merely to satisfy the pressure of so-called "good democrats" for salaries and honors at the public expense. This is the assertion of none other than Dr. Albert Shaw, the exceptionally well posted editor of the Review of Reviews, who has been a staunch admirer, otherwise, of both President Wilson and Secretary Garrison, but who, in the current issue of his magazine, says:

The exigencies of internal politics in the democratic party have led to the demoralization of our painfully constructed fabric of good administration in the Philippine Islands (including Mexico and the Panama Canal with the Philippines). Herein lie real dangers to public interest. No attempt is visible here to begot the situation or to quibble about cause or responsibility for failure to maintain the steady progress that marked the government of the Philippines along non-partisan lines under the two preceding republican administrations; neither will it be easy to brush aside this opinion by any charge of partisanship or self-interest. The facts about the Philippines, as they develop, are certain to keep our democratic friends explaining.

The Case of the Hocking.

The regulation by the British government of the ship Hocking, held at Halifax although flying the American flag when intercepted on the high seas, is another of the annoyances and abuses practiced by the British under the rules of warfare as interpreted by the admiralty. The legal contention of the British authorities may be well supported, but this is a poor time for them to rely exclusively on technicalities or quibbles. It is hardly likely that the emergency is such as to entirely justify the action taken, and the conclusion is easy that the purpose is to warn the world that Great Britain is determined to control ocean traffic by any means. Protest by the United States is prompt and vigorous, but vessel owners will hesitate to send their ships to sea unless they may feel fully assured the flag they fly will protect them in their ordinary rights.

The general effect of the action just taken by the British must be to aggravate a situation already such as to require of us the exercise of great patience. Interference with the trade of neutrals has reached a point that leaves little short of absolute control in the hands of the belligerents. Under existing circumstances continuance of ocean traffic must be at the pleasure of one or the other of the warring powers. Whether this will be indefinitely tolerated is for the neutrals finally to determine.

If the British government feels that ocean freight rates are too high, and that the combination can be broken only by seizure of ships, it might have made a more impressive start with some of the vessels that sail under the union jack.

Professions and Practice.

Expressions of the marquis of Lansdowne and Viscount Bryce, in answering a question propounded in the House of Lords as to the attitude of the cabinet with regard to the declaration of London, are indicative of a desire at least, if not a purpose, on the part of the British government to keep on friendly footing with the United States. If these avowals of recognition of the rights of neutrals are carried out in spirit, the course will surely lead to a complete adjustment of overseas traffic, and the possible removal of present causes for friction. The rejection of the declaration of London as a basis for final determination of action is not in itself serious, although England is one of the signatories to that document. The underlying principle is admitted, and the dispute turns on the application of this principle in detail. Furthermore, Viscount Bryce takes appeal to the principle of arbitration, to which both the United States and Great Britain are committed, in sentiment and by treaty.

The persistent heckling of the United States in the matter of its shipping, mere technicalities being seized for the purpose of annoyance, is hardly in keeping with the tone of the debate before the lords. It is also unthinkable that England will undertake to "fall back on the old sea laws of our ancestors," as suggested by the earl of Portsmouth. A much better feeling would be quickly established if the British cabinet would make its practice square a little more accurately with its professions.

With the road smoothed out with honeyed oratory, how can Governor Morehead resist the temptation to try it for a third-term spin? In truth, he must wonder how he ever came to announce, when running the first time, that he would not again be a candidate for the office except on the score that he did not know what a soft berth he was landing.

What that water works financial exhibit proves, assuming its correctness, is that the Omaha water users have been charged altogether too much right along, and that the water rates, or the water tax, or both, should be materially reduced—not next year, not next month, but now.

Washington Gossip

By Edgar C. Snyder, Special Washington Correspondent.
When ex-Senator Allen was in Washington recently to argue the case before the supreme court of Henry W. O'Neill and Cornelius K. Helferman, plaintiffs in error, against Jacob P. Leamer, John T. Daley, Fred Bartels, David Glenn Armour and Charles H. Maxwell, defendants in error, he said to one of the officials connected with the clerk's office of the court that as he had some reputation as a long distance talker he would esteem it a very great favor if the official in question would pull his coat tail when the time allotted to him for his argument should expire. "Don't get worried about that," said the official, "Chief Justice White will rap you down all right when your time is up, never fear." And, sure enough, when the hour and a half given Senator Allen had been exhausted, Chief Justice White indicated to the Madison statesman that he had taken up all the time the court could give to his side of the case, but that he would be very glad if Senator Allen would take luncheon with him during the recess of the court, which the senator was pleased to do, as it gave him an opportunity to reminisce over old times when he and Chief Justice White were colleagues in the senate way back in 1894.

Important legislation for the further control of the national banks of the country will be proposed at the coming session of congress, with the backing of the comptroller of the currency. One of the bills now being prepared seeks to put limitations on the powers of officers of national banks with the aim to prohibit the practice of bank officers lending depositors' money to themselves, or to business concerns in which they (the officers) are interested.

In describing how an Ohio bank came to grief from this cause, John Shelton Williams, comptroller of the currency, in an announcement given out a day or two ago, says: "The failure of this bank was due to bad banking. At the time of its suspension the bank was lending to its president and cashier and enterprises directly or indirectly controlled by them to an amount exceeding its total deposits."

This emphasizes the importance of securing legislation which will prevent bank officers from lending to themselves or for their personal benefit the funds of depositors committed to their care." Also the subject of branch national banks which may serve the farmers will come up for careful consideration. Both Comptroller Williams and Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston are in favor of branch national banks, though they differ widely as to details of a branch bank plan. Secretary Houston would put very much stricter limitations on the power to organize branch banks than Comptroller Williams proposes.

Secretary Houston insists that the establishment of branch national banks should be limited to localities where there are no banks in existence. He also would make it unlawful for a national bank to organize a branch anywhere except in the congressional district in which the parent bank is situated. His fear is that unless the power to establish branch banks is strictly guarded the branches may operate as mere "feeders" to suck up the money in the local communities and carry it to the financial centers, thus leaving the farmers worse off than they are now. Secretary Houston's apprehensions are not shared by Comptroller Williams. The latter would favor legislation to enable a national bank to establish branches anywhere within the state in which it is situated, such branches to be located regardless of whether or not there are other banks in the communities to be served.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the recent decision of Attorney General Gregory with reference to the power of the Federal Reserve board to change the location of districts, seriously interfered with the determination of the board to put Omaha into the Chicago district. The board had made up its mind to change the Richmond district to Baltimore and the Cleveland district to Cincinnati, but the opinion of the attorney general knocked this scheme into a cocked hat. The opinion of the attorney general, according to Senator Hitchcock is entirely erroneous, the senator even going so far as to say that it was the expressed intention of the framers of the federal banking act to give the National Reserve board power to do anything it thought best would tend to increase the efficiency of the system. The prevention of usury will come in for a large share of attention, also the difficulty lies in the fact that the national banks, which are subject to congressional control, are only about one-third of the total number of banks in the country. In other words, two-thirds of the total number of banks are not under federal charter and would not be subject to any legislation that congress might enact. Therefore, while it is within the range of congressional action to stop usury when practiced by national banks it is not possible for congress entirely to eradicate the usury evil.

Twice Told Tales

Hearing Better Fruit. "I've looked up your family tree," said the generalist; "but I doubt if you will be pleased with it. Your great-grandfather was hanged for murder; your great-grandfather was imprisoned for robbery; your great-grandfather was tarred and feathered for beating his wife. That's not a very good record, is it?" "I should say it is," replied the other emphatically. "It shows the family is getting better with each generation. I'm an improvement on the entire bunch—never been in jail yet. Let me have those records—I'm proud of 'em."—Boston Transcript.

Simple Method. "Don't you come across a good many things in the Bible that you don't understand, like the problem of Cain's wife, for instance?" queried the man. "Oh, yes, of course," acknowledged the clergyman. "Well, what do you do about it?" "My dear friend," replied the minister, laying down his fork, "I simply do just as I would while eating a nice fresh herring. When I come to the bone I quietly lay it on one side, and go on enjoying the meal, letting any idiot that insists on choking himself with the bone do so."

Infringing. One morning little Mary hung about the kitchen continually bothering the busy cook to death. The cook lost patience finally. "Clear out of here, ye sassy little brat!" she shouted, thumping the table with a rolling-pin. The little girl gave the cook a naughty look. "I never allow any one but my mother to speak to me like that," she said.—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

People and Events

The supreme court of Wisconsin solemnly decides that when a dog bites a caller the dog's owner is responsible for damages.

The meanest thief of the season robbed a little boy's toy bank of Christmas savings at Tonkers, N. Y., and got away with the loot.

Terrence O'Brien of Worcester, Mass., is the father of thirty children. It's an O'Brien habit. Terrence himself was one of twenty-eight.

The town recorder of Elizabeth, N. J., Henry Bundy, 86 years old, complains that his salary of \$100 a year is not enough to live on. He wants \$400 a year, and Elizabeth should cough it up like a "good angel."



Judge Sears on Mothers' Pensions. OMAHA, Dec. 3.—To the Editor of The Bee: Owing to the prominence of an article in another paper, with reference to the administration of the mothers' pension—so-called—has concluded I should say a word, because too much publicity cannot be given to the subject. The intention is that there shall be liberal construction of the law in its application, for the benefit of those having children in charge, in order that homes may be maintained and families kept together. Strictly speaking, there is no mothers' or widows' pension in this state. It is only for the purpose of maintaining a home, so that the children shall not be scattered and only when the family resources are too meager for that purpose. That an allowance can be granted from the public treasury.

The difficulties of administering such a fund are, of course, many. One is, that the people may have a home worth thousands of dollars and something of a mortgage against it, and ask for a pension sufficient to keep the family together and pay off the mortgage, so that when the children are grown and educated the public chest is not left with a valuable property to hand down to the next generation, and which the public has paid for, although the intention is that no one shall receive aid unless they are at the end of their own resources.

A mother or widow with a large family of small children, under the law, as it is, if she had \$100 in cash would have to be refused an allowance until her \$100 was expended, unless the judge in charge of the fund to be drawn on, should violate his trust.

I am going to ask a committee of representative citizens to meet and consider the question in its different aspects. The word "home" as used in the statute, means a place for the family to live, and cannot mean the acquiring of real estate, or the paying off of incumbrances. The rule lately adopted, requiring families having interest in real estate, before they received aid, to give a trust deed to the county, was not intended for the purpose of having the loans bear interest, or of foreclosure, but for the purpose of allowing the family to be kept together at public expense, and when the children are grown, to let them pay back what has been advanced them, so that they will be on the same footing and level as others not so situated. If the intention is that the public shall procure houses and lots for homes for families at public expense, the law should so provide. The committee I have referred to above, will be asked to formulate a conclusion satisfactory to the different interests involved; the main one, of course, being the interested families, and also an aid toward further legislation, if deemed advisable.

Questions from an Old Bach. HAMBURG, Pa., Dec. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: In a letter signed "A Wife" she has this to say: "Why should a woman get married, anyway? Why should she give herself to a life which is a recognized state of servitude? The woman who earns \$10 or \$12 per week can take very good care of herself, and take time to rest, to attend theaters, clubs, etc. Usually a nice woman has many escorts, and many invitations to these which cost her nothing. She can think what she pleases, and speak her convictions without impugning her husband's business. When a woman is free she can come and go when she pleases. Can use her money and time as suits her best. No sick children to worry her, nor husband to inquire what did you do with the \$1 I gave you for presents?" Evidently this wife was stung like 10,000 others have been. She should be able to answer her own question. Why did you get married, sister? I have asked this same question many times myself.

Why a young and handsome woman, drawing a good salary, and happily situated, should marry a man of the caliber of the husband that you evidently got is beyond my comprehension. You are not the only one, though. Women are doing this same thing every day all over the land. And they are doing it in the face of the protests of their parents and advice of their friends. All classes, high and low, rich and poor, educated and uneducated.

I know a school teacher 21 years old who was drawing a salary of \$75 per month, with a promise of a raise after a while. She resigned her position and married a kidlet 20 years old who had a job in a grocery store at \$40 per month. He has since lost his job and he and his wife are now living with her folks. Her folks objected and the school board objected because she gave up her job eight months before her time was up? Why did she do it?

Another case: A widow 60 years old and three grown daughters. She owned her home. Her daughters were living with her, going to school. A widower with a family of boys and a big appetite for home came along and wanted to marry him. She immediately rented her house, set her daughters adrift and is now keeping house for the above mentioned widower as his wife, of course. Why did she do it?

Another case: A man had an only daughter, beautiful and accomplished. He spent \$1,000 on her musical education. She is now the wife of an insolent farmer, slopping hogs and singing lullabies to a raft of young children. Why did she do it?

Another thing about the wives who get this brand of husbands. They will stick to them tighter than wood ticks to a dog's back. They will give them their money, bail them out of jail, shed tears before the court when asking for clemency, condemn the women in the case always when hubby steps aside from the path of virtue and take him back, allow him to put his property in her name to beat the creditors. And when some happy circumstance takes place that makes her a widow nine times out of ten she does the same thing over again. Why do they do it?

Sister, you can answer the question all right yourself, because you have passed through the experience. Tell us about it in your next letter to The Bee.

AN OLD BACH.

TIPS ON HOME TOPICS.

Detroit Free Press: Henry Ford is about to discover that there are some things that even money won't do.

Boston Transcript: Nebraska republicans are determined to keep in the political spotlight if they have to nominate Burton.

Baltimore American: A generation ago thought the works of Jules Verne the height of daring imaginative literature. Now the submarine and air battles of the day are making his stories of the apparently impossible seem tame.

Indianapolis News: Reading about the vast amount of powder burned in a single discharge of a big gun would be such a bad amusement if you had a little bunch of that powder stock that pays 25 1/2 per cent.

MIRTHFUL REMARKS.

"Just fancy! There's a fasting man who has been living for forty-five days on water." "What then?" sniffed his friend. "That's nothing. My father lived for twenty years on water." "So did I!" "Yes; he was a sea captain."—Chicago Herald.

"Now, ma," cautioned pa, "don't force too much on your guests at dinner." "What then?" sniffed ma. "Make it a sociability run, not an endurance contest."—Kansas City Journal.

"Do you know, Jones does some uncommonly queer things. Anything to be different from other people?" "Like what, for instance?" "Why, he's just put a mortgage on his limousine to have repairs made on his house."—Baltimore American.

"My wife likes the apartment house we live in." "Then you don't have to move every year?" "I can't say that. Under that one roof we have moved five times."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Pa's got a portable garage for our new auto." "Oh, indeed. And did you have a nice turkey dinner?" "My gracious, no! We can't afford such high living as that."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"You used to have a house full of company." "Um." "How is it that the young men no longer come to see your daughter?" "It's her own fault. I told her not to hang that cooking school diploma in the parlor."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"My ancestors came over in the Mayflower," announced the man who prides himself on his blue blood. "Hub!" snorted the man of red color.

"Have you studied political economy?" "No, sir. Economy is all right in its place, in one of those who believe in keeping business out of politics."—Washington Star.

"So you think Grace Brown is perfect, my son?" "Yes, mother." "Have you given her temper the supreme test?" "Calling up a wrong number on the telephone with a cross operator at the other end and somebody trying to break in on the line."—Philadelphia Ledger.

IS IT YOU?

There's a thoughtless fellow driving through the busy streets today. That thinks only of arriving. He is scattering his brothers. Right and left in frenzied fear. And he gives no thought to others. Save it's fashioned with a sneer. Now this fellow I'm not naming. And I wouldn't if I knew. But the rest of us he's shaming. And I wonder—if it's you?

There's a driver that is breaking in the automobile clan. All the laws we boast today. He is selfish in his taking. Disregarding others' rights. He is risking death and danger. As he flies about the town. To his neighbor and the stranger. Who behold him with a frown. Turning corners in a hurry. Is a thing he's apt to do. Who's this fiend of rash and scurry? Well, I hope it isn't you!

There's a chap that brings disfavor in the automobile clan. By his wild and weird behavior. He's an enemy to man. He is taking all the highway. Disregarding others' rights. And the peace of every byway. Is a joy his presence brings. He's a menace to the city. And his selfishness I view. Not in anger, but in pity. Say, I hope this isn't you!

There are others who are driving in the way they live their lives. Who believe not in their striving. But the fittest here survives. They are on the lookout ever. For the young, the weak, the slow. And they make it their endeavor. To be careful as they go. As they would be done by others. So they drive their cars to do. Of these many thoughtful brothers. Can you say that it is you? EDGAR A. GUEST.

Large Package, 10c. The Whole Dinner Prepared in 30 Minutes. ONE thing that appeals so strongly to the housewife about a spaghetti dinner is the fact that it is so easily and quickly prepared. Takes 30 minutes to cook, needs little attention, and costs but 10c. Cook with tomatoes and serve with grated cheese. FAUST SPAGHETTI is a strengthening, satisfying food. You can cut down on meat when you have Faust Spaghetti with much benefit to your health and pocketbook. This easily digested food is made of Durum wheat, is rich in gluten, and can be made up in many savory dishes. Write for free recipe book. MAULL BROS., St. Louis, U. S. A.